

# THE AMBER ADVOCATE

2010 NATIONAL AMBER ALERT SYMPOSIUM EDITION



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Your story ideas and pictures are welcome.

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# 2010 AMBER ALERT SYMPOSIUM: A PRIMER ON PREPARATION

If there was a theme to the 2010 National AMBER Alert Symposium, it would be the Boy Scouts' motto —“Be prepared.”

Clay County, Florida, Sheriff's Captain David Senters put it this way: “The only type of case that has ever scared me is a child abduction. Having been through a child abduction, I'm even more scared. You must have a plan in place.”

The symposium held November 16-18 in Phoenix, Arizona, was an opportunity for AMBER Alert partners to consider if they have a plan in place or if they must improve their current plan. The symposium provided 3 days of discussions designed to replace fear with knowledge.

“We have come a long way, but we still have a way to go,” said AMBER Alert Training Program Director Phil Keith.



Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff

## THE 7-YEAR REVIEW

The AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program staff shared a review of all U.S. and Canadian AMBER Alert Plans during the past 7 years to see how they have evolved.

The good news: name recognition for AMBER Alert is up, the activation criteria is more uniform, the methods for disseminating alerts have improved, and more plans use tools to identify proper activation procedures.

The review noted some other positive develop-

ments: more plans employ comprehensive child recovery strategies and automatic alert cancellations and better details about the frequency of alerts and out-of-state activations. In addition, more plans use Endangered Missing Advisories for cases that do not meet the AMBER Alert criteria.

The bad news? Most plans lack details in after-action reports; few plans reference phone banks, testing, scenarios, or table top exercises. Also, most plans have not been updated since 2007.

The lesson learned from this comprehensive review is there is no finish line; agencies need to constantly review their plans and make needed improvements to ensure they provide the best preparation possible.

During his keynote speech at the symposium, Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff quoted Benjamin Franklin, who once said, “When you finish changing, you are finished.”

“We need to change from ‘That is the way it has always been done’ to ‘That is the best way to save a child,’” said Shurtleff. “Take the smallest idea and run with it. Just one person is all it takes to turn a tragedy into a triumph.”

OJJDP Deputy Administrator Marilyn Roberts noted that the AMBER Alert Program has had many triumphs over the past 7 years. “The AMBER Alert Program has significantly increased public awareness of child abduction cases and public participation has increased dramatically,” she said.

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National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) President and CEO Ernie Allen also added that this is a time to celebrate what has been accomplished. "Few partnerships have had the impact of the AMBER Alert," said Allen. "Individually, we can do little. Together, we can change the world."

## TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

One constant change is technology. NCMEC Associate Director of Special Projects Bob Hoever discussed the way technology is changing AMBER Alert Programs. Some examples include:

- Walgreens posts all AMBER Alerts on its electronic pharmacy signs.
- Smart phones will soon have applications for AMBER Alerts and missing child notifications.
- The U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement Service shows AMBER Alerts and endangered missing children notifications on its LCD screens.
- The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System and Commercial Mobile Alert System will eventually change the way all alerts are distributed.
- The Emergency Alert System will soon switch to the Common Alert Protocol (CAP) as its primary method of delivery.

Washington State Broadcasters Association President Mark Allen said CAP will make it possible for alerts to include audio, graphics, maps, and text.

"In addition to the standard alert, messages will be sent to cell phones, Websites, billboards, and other alerting devices," said Allen.

The launch date for CAP has been delayed, but, Allen said, broadcasters will eventually have to buy CAP decoders and encoders.

## AMBER ALERT WEB EXPANDED AND ENHANCED

The AMBER Alert Extranet is also undergoing a complete makeover. The Extranet serves as a secure clearinghouse for authorized AMBER Alert partners in collaborating with one another. In 2011, the Extranet will become part of the secure sites



on the Criminal Justice Collaboration Portal at [www.thecjportal.org/amberalert](http://www.thecjportal.org/amberalert). The portal will provide users with an expanded array of Web-based collaboration and information management tools that will enhance the Extranet's features.

"Users can collaborate with other AMBER Alert and child protection partners regarding issues relevant to their roles and responsibilities and access information regarding training and technical assistance," said Distance Learning Coordinator Bonnie Davis.

AMBER Alert's sites on the portal will provide a wide array of training and technical assistance information for the public. Users with secure login credentials, such as AMBER Alert Coordinators, Missing Children Clearinghouse Managers, active

Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Program Coordinators, and their ranking law enforcement officers, will also have access to a vast collection of secure collaboration tools, document libraries, and other resources not visible to the public. The site's security will ensure that users' information and documents are protected as they collaborate with their colleagues.

## DISTANCE LEARNING ON THE PORTAL

The portal will also be used to share distance learning courses. The Website will include an area devoted to online course information, schedules, downloads, and links to registration.

Two courses are currently available: "Public Safety Telecommunications Best Practices for Missing and Abducted Children" and "Patrol First Response for Missing and Abducted Children."

In the first 10 months of AMBER Alert's online learning programs, more than 2,100 law enforcement and public safety personnel successfully completed training.

Registrations continue to pour in and 3 to 5 more programs are expected to be added this year, including a Spanish language AMBER Alert Basics course, blended learning opportunities for the CART program, and a new course for prosecutors to support their role in missing and abducted child investigations.

## CART HAS WHEELS

The CART concept continues to gain momentum since it was introduced at the National AMBER Alert Symposium in 2006. A CART is made up of highly trained individuals who provide the expertise and resources needed when a child is missing or abducted. So far, more than 247 teams have attended training covering 43 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, and Canada.

"AMBER Alerts and CART go hand-in-hand," said lead CART Instructor Floy Turner. "Our short term goal is to have

CARTs in all 50 states. Our long term goal is to have CARTs everywhere."

## PREDATORY BEHAVIOR

The symposium included some frank discussions about offenders who engage in commercial sexual exploitation of children. In a presentation on Predatory Behaviors, licensed psychologist Veronique N. Valliere said child predators manipulate victims to get what they want.

"When we are talking about compliant victims and compliant behavior, we are not talking about compliance," said Valliere. "Compliance implies full knowledge. What we have to realize is that these offenders ruin the victim's ability to consent or comply."

Valliere warned investigators and prosecutors that predators will also act nice, show remorse, and shift the blame on the victim to manipulate them. "The more the offender can blame the victim, the more likely it is that we are not going to take the case," she said. "Nice is a behavior, not a character trait—it means nothing. The reality is that some of the nicest people do the worst things."

Detective Cathy De La Paz has dealt with many predators while working for the Dallas Police Child Exploitation Squad. Her job is to stop human trafficking and child prostitution. She shared how pimps groom children to do what they want and never tell.

"Most of the victims of child prostitution could leave the lifestyle and contact police, but the grooming process prevents them from even considering that an option," said De La Paz. "These cases are not going to walk in off the street, we have to be proactive."

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NCMEC President and CEO Ernie Allen; NCMEC Associate Director of Special Projects Bob Hoever



Crisis Communications Panel



AMBER Alert Partners Panel; Licensed Psychologist Veronique N. Valliere



# AMBER ALERT REACHES ACROSS THREE STATES TO RESCUE ABDUCTED GIRL

Donnie Shelton had a protective order forbidding him from contacting his estranged wife and their children. Authorities at the Pickens County Sheriff's Office in South Carolina said the order did not stop Shelton from breaking into the family home on Monday, November 22, 2010, and attacking his wife and 10-year-old son. The father found his 8-year-old daughter hiding in a closet and forced her into his truck.

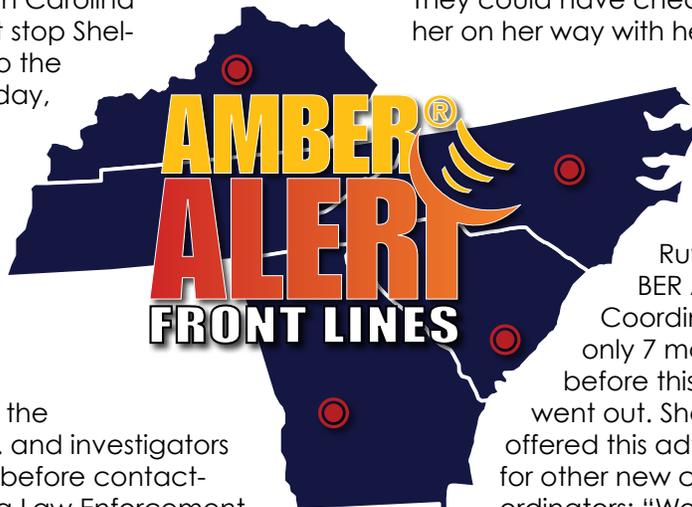
Dispatchers received the initial call at 6:00 p.m. and investigators tried to find the child before contacting the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division at 11:40 p.m. about issuing an AMBER Alert. Lt. Cal Reighley said he considered the father's past history of domestic violence and drug problems before sending the alert out just after midnight.

"We felt like the child was in danger because of his history of violence and how he took the child," said Reighley. "It was better to be safe than sorry, and we decided to go ahead and issue the AMBER Alert."

Reighley notified the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and contacted all AMBER Alert partners. He also made a courtesy call to Georgia and North Carolina about the alert. Every part of the South Carolina AMBER Alert Plan seemed to be working.

At 3:30 a.m. Tuesday, a man showed up at the Baptist Regional Medical Center in Corbin, Kentucky, with a girl who said she had stomach pains. A nurse became suspicious when the girl would not make eye contact with her. Staff members checked an AMBER Alert Website and discovered the child had been abducted three states away in South Carolina. The police arrived at 4:05 a.m. and arrested Shelton.

Patti Ruff, the South Carolina AMBER Alert Coordinator, said she was about to relieve Reighley when the AMBER Alert was cancelled.

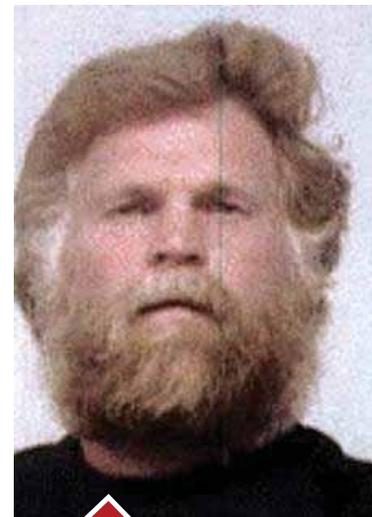


"I think the alert was awesome," said Ruff. "Whoever took the initiative to check online to see if there was an AMBER Alert should be recognized. They could have checked the little girl and sent her on her way with her father. This is a lesson for all hospital staff members to check something out even if there is not an AMBER Alert in their state."

Ruff became the state AMBER Alert Coordinator only 7 months before this alert went out. She offered this advice for other new coordinators: "Work with someone who is experienced and has been involved with AMBER Alerts. If you are a parent and you are new to the process, you will want to activate the alert as fast as you can. However, it is important to get it right so you do not desensitize the public with too many alerts."

"You learn something with every alert and nothing happens exactly the same with each one," added Reighley. "The biggest surprise was where the suspect was located. The most important lesson we learned was to check other states because the suspect can pretty much go anywhere, and you do not know where they will turn up."

Shelton has been charged with assault and battery, burglary, custodial interference, criminal domestic violence, and trespassing. ☺



ABOVE: Donnie Shelton, 46

BELOW: Elysha Shelton, 8



# CHARLES FLEEGER MAKES PREPARATION A PRIORITY

What if a child was abducted in my hometown? College Station, Texas, Police Lt. Charles Fleeger said that question haunted him in 2001, and it started him on a journey to do more to find missing and abducted children. He said he was also motivated by his 8-year-old daughter.

“As a dad that scared the heck out of me,” recalled Fleeger. “What would happen if something happened to my daughter? Would we be ready? I know we cannot plan for every eventuality, but as a police officer and as a parent, I wanted to be able to stand before a parent and say we did everything we could and did not wait to the last second to do it.”

Fleeger gathered representatives from law enforcement, broadcasting, and dispatch centers and they began looking at other AMBER Alert programs. The radio stations in the area were not staffed 24 hours a day, but Fleeger found out that broadcasters could be notified at any time through the Emergency Alert System. In June 2003, the Texas Region 3 AMBER Alert Plan was launched for seven counties.

“We started building relationships with the AMBER Alert Program,” said Fleeger. “We were able to get representatives from all of the law enforcement agencies in the area to agree on something, and that was pretty darn unprecedented. It was actually an easy sell. Who wants to be the sheriff who is against finding missing kids?”

The new AMBER Alert Coordinator and his team started to train, hold quarterly meetings, and wait. They continued to train, find ways to improve their AMBER Alert plan, and wait. Sometimes Fleeger would use his own money and vacation time for more training. After more than 7 years, the regional AMBER Alert plan has never had to activate an alert.

“We have gotten scared a couple of times, but I keep telling people my goal in law enforcement is that we never have to use the AMBER Alert,” said Fleeger. “We will practice, train, and get people on board, but we never have to push that button.”

Fleeger said officers learn how to storm buildings, conduct high speed pursuits, and react during a gun battle—and they should be just as prepared

when a child is missing.

In 2009, Fleeger heard about the Child Abduction Response Team (CART) and more questions vexed him. “What will we do after we ring this bell? Are we ready to respond to an AMBER Alert? The answer was no. We need to set up a plan to respond.”

Fleeger and representatives from all seven counties trained to start a CART. They invited social workers, search and rescue teams, fire fighters, and others who were not involved in the AMBER Alert Program to be on the CART. In January 2010, the Brazos Valley Regional CART was launched with Fleeger as the CART Coordinator.

“Our agency does not have the resources if we have a case like Amber Hagerman or Elizabeth Smart,” said Fleeger. “We continue to build relationships across jurisdictional lines so we can help each other when something big happens.”

Not surprisingly, the CART has never been activated. It is also not a surprise Fleeger was named the 2010 AMBER Alert Coordinator of the year for his dedication to finding missing and abducted children.

“I was so shocked and humbled when I heard about the award,” said Fleeger. “I feel like I now have to go out and earn it. I definitely do not want to rest on what has occurred in the past. I want to keep chugging forward to do the best we can.”

Next year, Fleeger plans to get the Brazos Valley CART nationally certified and bring additional training to his area on how to canvass a neighborhood when a child is missing. ☺



College Station, Texas, Police Lt. Charles Fleeger

## FAMILY ROUNDTABLE UNDERLINES REAL DANGER, GUIDES OTHERS



Diena Thompson lit a candle at a vigil for missing and abducted children at the 2010 National AMBER Alert Symposium. A similar candlelight vigil was held for Thompson a year earlier at the symposium in Tampa, Florida, after the heartbreaking news that her 8-year-old daughter Somer had been found in a Georgia landfill. Somer was walking home from school when a registered sex offender abducted and murdered her.

"It is high time for the predators to fear us rather than us and our children fearing them," said Thompson. Since the tragedy, Thompson has joined the Surviving Parents Coalition and become a powerful voice for other parents of abducted children.

"My hope is together we can get these monsters off the street," added Thompson. "Not one more child, not here, not anywhere."

Thompson also joined 39 mothers, fathers, and survivors in child abduction cases who took part in the Family Roundtable discussions at the 2010 symposium. The family members shared their experiences and recommended guidelines they thought would help AMBER Alert partners during child abductions. Carol Ryan, a mother of an abducted child, shared those guidelines, including:

- Being heard is important to healing and to solving a case.
- Give the family a voice and find an advocate to help them with law enforcement and the media.
- Law enforcement agencies should immediately investigate missing children reports; unfortunately, some officers incorrectly still tell parents of missing children to call back the next day.
- Always assume the worst case scenario when looking for a child.
- Runaway cases may not really involve runaways and should be investigated.
- Children from foster care or residential facilities get lost because the cases are not reported or investigated properly.
- Keep the family informed and communicate even when there is nothing new to say.
- Leave the house the way you found it after an investigation. The home is the family's place of refuge, and it must be protected.

"Law enforcement plays a big part in defining the whole experience for the family," concluded Ryan. "Remind the family that there are other victims and that what occurred was not their fault. Those affirmations are powerful and stay with the family for a long time." ☺

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### CRISIS, WHAT CRISIS?

Since an AMBER Alert is by its very nature a crisis, AMBER Alert partners also received a crash course on crisis communications. Here are some of the lessons shared on working with the media during an AMBER Alert:

- Press conferences should provide everything a reporter will need to tell a story.
- The victim's family should have a voice and will help generate public interest.
- Use traditional and new media to reach as broad an audience as possible.
- Always be up front with the media; a break in trust can jeopardize future cases.
- Explain why you cannot release certain information during an investigation.

Clay County, Florida, Sheriff Rick Beseler said it was critical that a relationship with the media already existed when 8-year-old Somer Thompson was abducted and murdered. "The media is needed to relay critical information about the suspect and case," said Beseler. "If a relationship does not exist, it will be difficult for law enforcement to disseminate information."

The symposium ended with a challenge from Ron Laney, then OJJDP Associate Administrator and now Senior Policy Advisor to the Administrator, to be prepared and to share. "Be sure to take home what you have learned, and share it with everyone." ☺

# 2010 AMBER ALERT AWARD WINNERS

Marilyn Roberts, OJJDP Deputy Administrator, presented the 2010 AMBER Alert Awards to five outstanding individuals involved with the AMBER Alert Program.



### Broadcast/Media Person of the Year

Illinois Broadcasters Association President Dennis Lyle helped develop a state AMBER Alert Program in 2001 and enlisted more than 500 broadcasters to make the plan work. Lyle promotes the state's "no budget" AMBER Alert Plan to enlist partners, to educate the public, and to create public service announcements.



### Law Enforcement Leadership Award

New Mexico Department of Public Safety Public Information Officer Eric Garcia works tirelessly to educate law enforcement officers and broadcasters on AMBER Alert laws, regulations, and protocols. He developed a Missing/Endangered Alert to find children who may not meet the AMBER Alert criteria. He has also been a leading force to bring AMBER Alerts to bordering states in Mexico.



### AMBER Alert Citizen Award

Mike Grant helped save a 2-year-old girl after an AMBER Alert was issued in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The girl was abducted by her father, who had assaulted the victim's mother at knifepoint. Grant was hunting in the woods when he spotted the victim and suspect and convinced him to turn himself in.



Victor Perez responded to an AMBER Alert after an 8-year-old girl was abducted and forced into a truck in Fresno, California. Perez followed the suspect until he pushed the child out of the truck. The suspect was arrested 40 minutes later.



### AMBER Alert Coordinator of the Year

Lt. Charles Fleeger, College Station, Texas Police Department (see profile on page 7)

### CART Certification

Roberts also recognized the Child Abduction Response Teams (CART) that received national certification in 2010. Certification is achieved after the teams are determined to be in compliance with the standards and requirements of the Department of Justice.

- **Utah CART:** certified June 1, 2010
- **Georgia CART:** certified September 1, 2010
- **Southern Oregon CART:** certified October 1, 2010
- **York County, Pennsylvania CART:** certified November 17, 2010
- **Kansas CART:** certified November 17, 2010

### Special Award Presented to Outstanding Advocate for Children

Phil Keith, AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program Director was surprised to receive a special award from OJJDP and NCMEC staff for his outstanding work as an advocate for missing, abducted and endangered children during the final minutes of the symposium.

Ron Laney, Senior Policy Advisor to the Administrator, presented the award to Keith for his tireless efforts to train thousands of people and develop critical programs to save the lives of missing and abducted children. ☺



Ron Laney congratulates Phil Keith on receiving the Outstanding Advocate for Children Award

Cecilia Duquela-Fuentes, Phil Keith, Ron Laney and Bob Hoever

## AMBER ALERTS GOING GLOBAL



The worldwide impact of AMBER Alerts finally hit home for NCMEC President Ernie Allen when he met the president and first lady of France 3 years ago. Allen was about to speak to President Jacques Chirac when his wife Bernadette told Allen, "Last week we recovered two French missing children through the use of your AMBER Alert."

A total of 9 countries outside the United States now have AMBER Alert Programs: Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal, Belgium and Switzerland. Plans are also underway for child abduction alerts in Mexico and Italy, and a European Child Alert Automated System is being developed to coordinate alerts among partner countries for cross-border activations.

"Many countries are looking to the United States for advice on AMBER Alerts," said Caroline Humer, International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC) Program Director.

Humer oversaw the International Workshop at the 2010 National AMBER Alert Symposium. Below is a brief overview of the progress reported at the workshop:

**Canada:** Alberta launched the first AMBER Alert Program in 2003 and each province now has its own policy. In 2010, Canada started using wireless AMBER

Alerts, and several provinces also use Facebook to distribute alerts.

**Greece:** The Greek child abduction alert was launched in 2007. The plan is called "The Smile of the Child" and is similar to the AMBER Alert Program. ICMEC has provided training, and a grant from the European Union was used to develop automatic alerts.

**Mexico:** A full report on progress made in Mexico by the Southern Border Initiative can be found on page 11.

**Netherlands:** The Dutch AMBER Alert Program was started in 2008 with alerts being distributed to broadcasters, Short Message Service (SMS), e-mail, billboards, and the border patrol. In 2010, the Netherlands also started using the social networks Twitter, Igoogle, Facebook, and Hyves to distribute alerts.

**Switzerland:** The Swiss AMBER Alert Program was started in 2010 in response to a child who was murdered 1 year earlier. Federal police oversee the program, but local police decide to initiate alerts. Each alert is quickly translated into English, French, Italian, and German.

Humer noted that Interpol has been helpful in pushing the AMBER Alert Program throughout Europe. ☺

## AMBER ALERT IN INDIAN COUNTRY: SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ACHIEVED & SUBSTANTIAL CHALLENGES AHEAD

In only 4 years, the idea of bringing AMBER Alerts into Indian Country has become a reality in many tribal communities. In 2006, the Department of Justice announced the start of the AMBER Alert in Indian Country (AIIIC) Initiative and began working with 10 tribal communities. Since the pilot program began, the Initiative has expanded significantly. Some examples:

- More than 1,000 tribal officials and community members have been trained on the AMBER Alert and comprehensive child recovery plans.

- AMBER Alert programs are in place or under development in 32 tribal communities.
- Child Abduction Response Teams have been launched in 12 tribal communities.
- An Indian Country Intelligence Network has been created.
- The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children uses Native American trackers to search for missing children.
- Tribes now use donated bloodhounds in searches.

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# MEXICO TAKES CHALLENGE TO PROTECT CHILDREN WITH AMBER ALERTS

AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program Director Phil Keith sums up the reason behind the massive effort to bring AMBER Alerts into Mexico in a few words: "Our goal is pretty simple: to protect children."

In 2006, the Department of Justice launched the Southern Border Initiative (SBI) to extend the AMBER Alert Programs into Mexico and develop a seamless network throughout North America. "The experience in Mexico is similar to what was encountered in the United States and Canada with regard to the struggles and challenges of implementation," noted Keith.

Here are some of the developments in Mexico:

- Baja California launched Mexico's first AMBER Alert Program in 2009. The Baja California Attorney General has been instrumental in pushing the program. So far, Baja California has issued two alerts, but has received more than 50 requests.
- Chihuahua has a system that is similar to the AMBER Alert Program but has a different name.
- Tamaulipas is the second state to develop an AMBER Alert Program. Representatives from health, public safety, transportation, and other government agencies have all participated in child recovery training. A mass media campaign for AMBER Alerts will be launched soon.
- Nuevo León is developing what it hopes will be Mexico's first comprehensive child recovery program. An AMBER Alert plan is also being developed with the help of the state's Attorney General.

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AIRC partners at the 2010 National AMBER Alert Symposium agreed more work needs to be done. AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program Director Phil Keith outlined the next goals for the Initiative: expand the AMBER Alert program into new communities; focus on stopping exploitation of Native American children through education, prevention, and investigation; assist training in child protection, family violence, and runaways; and provide more infrastructure.

"It is important to find partners in your communities to become stakeholders in the initiative," said Jim Walters, AIRC Liaison.

The Department of Justice, through its AMBER Alert National Training and Technical Assistance pro-

The SBI also set some goals for the upcoming year, including:

- Developing a best practices guide and translating all AMBER Alert documents into Spanish
- Starting a help desk for Spanish speaking professionals
- Continuing joint training sessions and developing online training courses
- Partnering with international transportation organizations
- Creating formal documents to outline responsibilities and protocols.

"There is still much to be done, but the Department of Justice and its partners will continue to work to bring the AMBER Alert Program to Mexico," said Cecilia Duquela-Fuentes, OJJDP Program Manager.

Representatives from both sides of the border have met regularly since 2006. They also have met with high level decision makers to fully implement AMBER Alerts in Mexico. "Patience, compromise, and partnership are all needed to develop programs across Mexico," said Tamaulipas AMBER Alert Coordinator Willy Zuniga Castillo.

Isabel Miranda de Wallace, the mother of an abduction victim who was murdered, hopes the AMBER Alert Programs will make a real difference in her country. "You are surrounded by fellow sons and daughters of Mexico, all of whom share the goal of protecting children." ☺

gram, will work with tribal leaders to reach those goals. Sharon Sexton, the Assistant U.S. Attorney for Arizona, also suggested tribes contact the U.S. Attorney's Office for resources and training. "Communities have to be proactive and aggressive. The opportunities will not always find the community, sometimes they have to be sought," said Sexton.

The initiative's long-term goal is to bring AMBER Alert programs to all federally recognized tribes. A tribe needs to be willing to meet three criteria to be considered for the Initiative: 1) Bring the information to the community; 2) Adopt the program as a way to protect children in the community; and 3) Share their knowledge with other tribal communities. ☺

## AMBER ALERT TRAINING DATES FOR 2011

OJJDP and Fox Valley Technical College have announced dates and locations for AMBER Alert training in 2011. The following courses will be offered during the year:

- Basic Forensic Response to Missing and Abducted Children
- Canvassing, Search, and Recovery Strategies for Abducted Children (CSRS)
- Child Abduction Response Team (CART)
- Investigative Strategies for Missing and Abducted Children (ISMAC)
- Leadership for Missing and Abducted Children (LMAC)
- Specialized Investigative Techniques in Child Abduction Cases (SITCAC)

More information about registering for the courses can be found at [www.amber-net.org](http://www.amber-net.org).



## BUSINESSWOMEN RAISE ENTIRE UTAH AMBER ALERT BUDGET

The Davis Chamber of Commerce Women in Business raised the entire budget for Utah's AMBER Alert Plan for the third year in a row. The group presented Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff with a check for \$13,301—the largest amount ever donated to the program. They previously raised \$5,230 in 2008 and \$6,605 in 2009 through fundraising costume parties. The money will be used for training materials and courses.



## MOTORCYCLE GROUP RAISES MONEY FOR MINNESOTA AMBER ALERT PLAN

A Hastings, Minnesota, motorcycle group donated \$25,000 to help fund the state's AMBER Alert Program. The motorcycle group has raised \$100,000 for the program since 2003. The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension says the money will help defray the \$6,000 to \$12,000 it costs to distribute each AMBER Alert.



## MASSIVE EFFORT STARTED TO INVESTIGATE OLD MISSING CHILD CASES

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children has asked 175 retired law enforcement officers to take a fresh look at long-term missing children cases. The Project ALERT deployment is the largest ever that NCMEC has undertaken. The volunteer retired officers will meet with investigators and relatives of more than 750 children who have been missing from 6 months to as many as 61 years.



## FACILITY FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN OPENS IN GREECE

The Southeastern European Centre for Missing and Exploited Children opened on October 12 in Athens, Greece, to help child abuse victims from Southern Europe. Investigators and prosecutors will use the center to stop child abductions, human trafficking, and the abuse of minors.



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